



Public Health
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CATTARAUGUS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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MINUTES

November 5, 2014

The 831st meeting of the Cattaraugus County Board of Health was held at Bartlett Country Clubhouse Restaurant, 32 Euclid Avenue, Olean, New York on November 5, 2014.

The following members were present:

Dr. Joseph Bohan

Richard Haberer

Dr. Zahid Chohan

James Lapey

Dr. Giles Hamlin

Theresa Raftis

Sondra Fox, RN

James Snyder

Also present were:

Kevin D. Watkins, MD, MPH, Public Health Director

Thomas Brady, County Attorney

Jackie Greene, Outreach Coordinator for Mercy Flight

Linda Edstrom, County Legislator

Paula Stockman, County Legislator

Howard VanRensselaer, County Legislator

Donna Vickman, County Legislator

Susan Andrews, Director of Patient Services

Kathleen Ellis, Administrative Officer

Raymond Jordan, Sr. Public Health Sanitarian

Debra Lacher, Secretary to Public Health Director

Eric Wohlers, Director of Environmental Health

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bohan. The roll was called and a quorum declared.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Health meeting held on October 1, 2014. It was seconded by Mr. Haberer, and unanimously approved.

Dr. Bohan introduced Jackie Greene, Outreach Coordinator for Mercy Flight who shared a power point presentation with the board. Mercy Flight of Western New York is an independent not-for-profit provider of emergency air medical transport and supporting services, ensuring rapid, safe and cost effective delivery of expert emergency response teams. Established in 1981, Mercy Flight has safely completed more than 20,000 patient missions over the last 30+ years.

Mercy Flight has (3) bases which include Batavia, Buffalo, and Olean which run operations 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. From the beginning, Mercy Flight has been independent of any hospital, delivering patients to the facility that will best suit their medical needs by working closely with the regional network of hospitals, ground emergency medical systems (EMS), law enforcement and fire authorities.

In 2008 Mercy Flight, moved into its first permanent home at Buffalo Niagara International Airport following a renovation of the existing "Flying Tigers" building and the construction of a brand new hangar to serve as the flight operations center. In 2011 they acquired their first brand new helicopter which was a state of the art Bell 429. The Mercy Flight team consists of 26 paramedics, 27 nurses, and 13 pilots. Mercy Flight of Western New York performs its life-saving missions without regard to a patients' insurance status or ability to pay. An average flight costs to a patient is \$10,000-\$12,000, but varies depending on the additional medical needs of an individual patient. Mercy Flight is willing to work with those patients to write off part of this cost if they cannot meet the financial obligations. In the last fiscal year Mercy Flight of WNY forgave over \$1.3 million for care provided to uninsured and underinsured patients.

In the summer of 2013, a state of the art weather station was installed at Bertrand Chaffee Hospital in Springville. The weather station provides accurate weather updates which are important for the pilots as they do not rely on instrument technology for flying. Ms. Greene reported they have had a couple of "hard landings" but have never been involved in any crashes since inception of the program.

Director's report: Dr. Watkins reported that the community influenza clinics were being completed this week; nearly 2,000 doses of vaccine were given this year (not including county health employees). Every year in the United States more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from influenza complications, and more than 23,600 people die from influenza complications. Ninety percent of these deaths occur in persons aged 65 years and older. Influenza activity level has been categorized as geographically sporadic in New York State with influenza reported in 11 counties plus New York City. There have been no influenza associated pediatric deaths reported this season.

Dr. Watkins presented a slide presentation on Ebola. He reported that the Ebola epidemic and the protocol as to how Ebola patients should be handled has changed dramatically. All travelers flying to the United States from the three countries hit hardest by the Ebola (Liberia, Sierra Leone or Guinea) outbreak in West Africa will now have to travel through five designated airports (John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York; Washington Dulles International Airport outside Washington, D. C.; O'Hare International Airport in Chicago; Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta; and Newark Liberty International Airport in New York) each of these airports now have enhanced screening (which includes temperature checks and answering Ebola-specific questionnaires). New York has also instituted a mandatory quarantine for any individual who had direct contact with an individual infected with the Ebola virus while in one of the three endemic West African nations. Since the last board meeting there has been three new confirmed cases of Ebola, two nurses who cared for Thomas Eric Duncan, who was the first case in the United States and one physician that worked in Liberia but returned home to New York and became symptomatic.

To summarize the presentation, Dr. Watkins discussed the mode of transmission, the symptoms, treatment, and New York treatment centers for the Ebola Virus. Dr. Watkins also explained the direct role of the Cattaraugus County Health Department if a suspected case of Ebola Virus is presented locally.

Dr. Watkins stated that the department has received an application announcing the promotion and sampling of tobacco products from the Silver Fox Restaurant in Ellicottville. The event is scheduled to take place on December 6, 2014 from 6PM – 12AM. This event is allowed by the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) and they are notifying us as required. The law has no provision for the department to deny the request; however, Dr. Watkins wanted to make the Board aware of the event.

The renewal of membership association applications is again available for four associations within our county. Approval for membership associations is granted to associations in which all the duties performed by members receive no compensation of any kind from the membership association or any other entity for the performance of their duties. The four associations include: The Christopher Columbus Club, Olean American Legion, Loyal Order of Moose, and the Olean Veterans Club all located in Olean, New York.

The budget review with the County Administrator went well; new requests include a position for a part-time Phlebotomist for the lab and the upgrade of (2) Technicians to Sanitarians in the environmental health division and the upgrade of (2) part-time Home Health Aides to full-time Home Health Aides within the nursing division.

Other changes that will be seen in 2015 include the loss of the long-term care program which will become a managed care program in February 2015. The homecare division will still care for these patients but will provide contracted services to these patients through managed care agencies. Several upgrades are also in the plans for 2015 which include electronic medical records, and electronic inspection software for food facilities.

Nursing Division Report: Mrs. Andrews reported that activity is decreasing nationwide for the outbreak of Enterovirus D68. Wadsworth lab has received over 600 specimens of which more than 120 were confirmed cases in New York State. Several children in Cattaraugus County were hospitalized and recovered.

The final community influenza clinic is being held tomorrow but Mrs. Andrews encouraged anyone who still needs an influenza vaccine to please call and stop in at any of the three offices, as there is still influenza vaccine available and it is not too late to receive a vaccine.

There have been (15) cases of confirmed rabies for the year 2014, they included: (9) bats, (1) raccoon, (1) dog, and (4) cats.

The family planning grant for 2015 is \$275,000. Family planning clinic numbers for this year are slightly decreased from the previous two years. Year to date we have seen 688 patients for 1,141 visits.

The home care census is currently at 469 patients, which is the highest census this year.

Environmental Health Division Report: Mr. Wohlers reported that Dr. Wayne Gall, NYSDOH Entomologist, was in Cattaraugus County two weeks ago taking part in a presentation and training to DEC regional staff. As a result of this training, 70 metal signs describing ticks and Lyme disease have been ordered to be placed throughout the region and are being deployed to help educate the public.

Deer ticks have continued to increase in our area, this month two new Lyme disease cases are pending confirmation. No Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus has been found within our county.

The environmental health division will soon be submitting water samples once again to the county lab. Turnaround time is 2-3 days when using the county lab as opposed to 2-3 weeks when outsourcing the samples.

The Town of Machias has been awarded a two million dollar grant from the State's Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) to assist the Lime Lake Sewer Project; construction will begin in 2016.


Our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for low income families was released in August. Part of the money will be spent in 2014 and the balance of this money will be spent in 2015. We have enough funding to assist low-to-moderate income homeowners repair or replace approximately (30) failing septic systems and (15) private wells in Cattaraugus County.

Enforcement Hearing Report: There were no new enforcement cases to present to the board.

Dr. Watkins reported that a respondent who received a BOH order which was issued at the October 1, 2014 BOH meeting, presented to the department with a request to waive the per diem charge. **Docket 14-016 David Woods, 203 ½ South 9th Street, Olean, N.Y., 14760** required that a \$ 75.00 fine be paid before October 31, 2014 with a \$10.00 per diem charged for every day late. Dr. Watkins recommended that the board waive the \$10.00 per day per diem charge and order a \$75.00 fine if the fine is paid by November 11, 2014 since proof of his dog's rabies vaccination was presented. However if the \$75.00 fine is not paid by November 11, 2014 then reinstitute the \$10.00 per day per diem charge as per the first order issued on October 1, 2014. Mr. Snyder made a motion to accept this recommendation and Mr. Lapey seconded, the board members unanimously voted in agreement.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Snyder, and it was seconded by Dr. Hamlin and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin D. Watkins, M.D., M.P.H.

Secretary

KDW/dl